

FACULTY OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY RECITAL

All Beethoven Program

Pierre Souvairan, piano

Friday, January 31, 1992

8:00 PM

Walter Hall

PROGRAMME

Pierre Souvairan, piano

Sonata in A major, Op. 101

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)

Sonata in A-flat major, Op. 110

Beethoven

Sonata in C major, Op. 111

Beethoven

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PROGRAMME NOTES

The sonatas on this evening's programme are among the last Beethoven wrote for the keyboard. For this reason, they have been seen as particularly significant "last utterances of the Master". All three make use of counterpoint and reflect Beethoven's renewed interest in this technique. *Sonata in A major*, Opus 101 was published in 1817 and designated "Für Hammerklavier" -- for piano -- by the composer, although it is popularly considered that only Op. 106 bore this distinction. Most keyboard works of this era would have been played on any keyboard instrument, and Beethoven's specification is significant in the history of the piano. The sonata is dedicated to Beethoven's distinguished pupil Dorothea von Ertmann; although, as the wife of a General, the Baroness was prohibited from playing the piano in public, she was unquestionably a very talented interpreter of Beethoven's work. He asked her to play many of his sonatas and the dedication is a fitting tribute.

The *Sonata in A flat major*, Opus 110 has no dedication and was published in 1822 in four countries simultaneously. In England, its publication was undertaken by Muzio Clementi, a composer whom Beethoven admired. The first movement is in sonata form, while the second, a scherzo, has folk-like melodies and characteristics. The third movement begins with a long, slow introduction and then introduces a fugue.

At what appears to be the climax of the fugue, the introduction music reappears.

The *Sonata in C major*, Opus 111 is Beethoven's last piano sonata and has only two movements. It begins with a slow introduction and then moves into a contrapuntal allegro. The second movement is a theme and variations of an intense, but reserved, emotional quality. This two-movement form is in itself not terribly unusual, but the fact that it concludes with an adagio surprised and puzzled many of Beethoven's contemporaries. When asked why there was no Finale movement, the composer said (probably with some contempt) that he had not had time to write one. Even his publishers were so convinced that the final movement had somehow been lost in the mail that they wrote to him twice asking for a second copy of the missing Finale. Beethoven's reply to these letters is lost, but the sonata was published as it is in 1823.

*Programme Notes by Jaqueline Warwick
Year 4, History & Literature*

TONIGHT'S ARTIST

PIERRE SOUVAIRAN was born in Montreux (Switzerland). His first musical impressions were, rather unusually of Igor Stravinsky composing on the piano during the year he stayed with the Souvairan family. In 1930 he completed classical and musical studies in Lausanne, which included chamber music work with Andre de Ribaupierre. He then spent three years at the Conservatory of Leipzig studying piano with Prof. Teichmüller and later in Paris with Cortot and Serkin.

In 1938 he was appointed to the staff of the Berne Conservatory (Switzerland) and has since been active both as soloist and teacher. Pierre Souvairan is a pianist in the tradition of Cortot and Serkin, his teachers. Like them, he is also a great teacher. Prof. Souvairan joined the faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music in 1953 and along with a busy schedule of teaching, he is a much sought after adjudicator. His playing has continued since his arrival in Canada and has taken him across the continent many times in solo recitals, concerto appearances with orchestra chamber music programmes and as an accompanist. He is a regular guest of the C.B.C. and every year returns to Europe for concerts, broadcasts and lectures.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE FACULTY OF MUSIC

Tuesday, March 10, 1992

FACULTY RECITAL

Lorand Fenyves, violin

Walter Hall - Edward Johnson Building

Tickets \$10/5 Students/Seniors

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Sunday, March 29, 1992

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Geoff Nuttall & Barry Shiffman, violins

Lesley Robertson, viola, &

Marina Hoover, cello

A co-production with CBC Radio

Walter Hall - Edward Johnson Building

Tickets \$10/5 Students/ Seniors

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